

PRESS RELEASE

Stockton-on-Tees teenager, Joshua Holforth receives new wheelchair to continue his pursuit for Team GB

Joshua Holforth (19) is a keen wheelchair basketball player from Stockton-on-Tees who has represented Tees Valley Titans for the past three years. Joshua was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy just before his 3rd birthday and has had numerous surgeries on his legs and feet.

In March 2019 Joshua's mum came to [my AFK - Working With Disability](#), in the hope they could help towards the cost of a new specialised sports wheelchair, to enable Joshua to continue his pursuit for Team GB. Sports wheelchairs are not funded by the NHS and can cost up to, but not limited to, £6,000. Charities like my AFK support people in funding the chairs to alleviate the financial cost of the families.

Joshua explained the difficulties he has faced due to his disability and how sport has helped him feel less excluded. "Life without the right equipment can have a big impact on my life. I have many adaptations around my family home to try and help with my day-to-day activities...I have experienced social exclusion in the past due to my disability, however since I've been playing wheelchair basketball this has reduced significantly."

When applying for the chair, Lee Fawcett, Head Coach at Tees Valley Wheelchair Sports Club said "He [Josh] is playing in a chair that no longer fits his needs and the set up of the chair is not suitable...I fully believe a new wheelchair would help his sporting ability go to the next level".

With the support from Devonshires Solicitors, my AFK along with two other charities, [Lifeline4Kids](#) and [READY](#) partnered up to purchase the specialised chair for Joshua which has increased his confidence and enhanced his ability to progress further in a sport he loves playing.

We hope to see Joshua playing for Team GB one day.

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PRESS ENQUIRIES: For more information please contact our Marketing and Communications Officer, Becky Dann at bdann@my-afk.org or **020 3059 5263**

NOTES TO EDITORS

my AFK (formerly Action For Kids) is a national charity supporting disabled children, young people and their families. We help prepare young people with learning disabilities and autism for life after school through our accredited education, training and work experience programmes. We also provide mobility equipment not available on the NHS to disabled children and young people up to age 25 across the UK.

Devonshires is a 'full service' law firm. From offices in London, Leeds & Colchester legal services are provided throughout the UK, with clients ranging from some of the world's largest multi-national corporations to private individuals. Clients include a significant number of charities, housing associations and Regulators, and Devonshires has specialist expertise in Commercial/Corporate, Civil Litigation, Housing, Employment, Real Estate & Projects & Property Development. Over the past few years Devonshires has grown significantly and now has over 240 staff, including solicitors and support staff in one 'hub of expertise', which enables teams to collaborate and deliver high-quality, practical advice utilising advances in technology and communication.

Lifeline4Kids are a UK based Charity that provide equipment for young children. Their staff is entirely voluntary.

READY raises money to help young people with disabilities play sport and take part in healthy activities for fun and fitness. They are run completely by volunteers.

PHOTOS

Any of the photos are okay to use.